



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION NEWS

United We Stand



TOMPKINS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1771 HANSHAW ROAD • ITHACA • NEW YORK • 14850
PHONE 607-257-2340 FAX 607-257-7896

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

www.tcswcd.org

AUGUST 2012

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Fish & Barley Straw Order Forms Inside!

Cayuga Inlet Hydrilla Treatment

By: Angel Hinckle, Resource Conservation Specialist, CPESC

Treatment of the hydrilla infestation in Cayuga Inlet continues this summer. On June 26th, Aquathol K (endothall) was applied to 100 acres of the Inlet. Within three days of treatment most of the hydrilla plants died and turned to mush. So far, no new regrowth has been discovered. On July 12th, treatment with Sonar Genesis (fluridone liquid) and Sonar One (fluridone pellets) began. These herbicides are being used to prevent plant growth from any 2011 hydrilla tubers that may sprout and emerge from the sediment during the rest of this 2012 growing season. The intention of the fluridone treatment is to prevent any new tubers from being produced in 2012 from new plant growth that could sprout in subsequent years. Sonar Genesis is being applied at a low dose (2-5ppb) through three metered injection units (one at the fish ladder, one on Cascadilla Creek, and one on Six Mile Creek) until October 31. Water quality monitoring is being conducted following each treatment and the results are posted on the "Stop Hydrilla" website. Pre-treatment and post-treatment plant surveys are also being conducted in the Inlet by Aquatic Biologist, Robert Johnson of Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists to determine treatment effectiveness. For more information, please visit stophydrilla.org.



This young buck recently took a peek inside the Tompkins County SWCD office window, and also helped himself to some flowers in the rain garden.



TIRE COLLECTION

One Day Only!

• **Saturday, October 13th, 2012**

• **From 9:00am—1:00pm**

**Lansing Highway Dept.
10 Town Barn Rd., Lansing, NY**

- **All car, light truck, and small agricultural tires will be collected for \$2.00 each.**
- **Tractor trailer tires will be collected for \$3.00**
- **All NY State Residents are welcome.**
- **Please pre-count large quantities of tires!**

**For more information, please contact the
Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District
at 257-2340.**

Farm City Day Celebrates 15th Year With a Return to Sweyolakan Farms

By Debbie Teeter, Agricultural Educator, CCE-Tompkins

Just two years ago the Baker family of Sweyolakan Farms in the Town of Ithaca hosted Tompkins County Farm City Day. This is not the first time the event has been hosted more than once by the same farm, but in the past there has been nearly ten years between visits. Why the rapid return? Because Jamie and Jenny Baker's youngest daughter, Hannah, was just crowned the 2012 Tompkins County Dairy Princess, and they want to celebrate by once again inviting the public to visit their dairy farm!

This delightful family-oriented event will occur on Saturday, August 18th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 380 Bostwick Road in Ithaca. Spending the day on a dairy farm is an unusual experience for most folks, as there are no dairy farms in the area that regularly host guests. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the many facets of dairying, including care and feeding of livestock at different life stages, barns and other farm structures designed for specific farm needs, land management and crop production, and the types of equipment needed all around the farm.

Jamie Baker, a nutrition consultant for many dairy farms in addition to managing his own farm, once told me the first question he asks a dairy farmer having trouble is, "What's the most important thing on your farm?". If the answer isn't "The cows.", he knows where to start. Farm City Day visitors will see how the Baker family's operation is based on what they think is best for their cows. For one thing, Baker's operate a "closed herd", which means they don't buy-in any calves or cows; all their cows are born on the farm. This helps maintain herd health by preventing the introduction of illness or disease and has allowed them to grow slowly, thereby avoiding debt. Growing the herd slowly also provided the time needed to construct new buildings, acquire additional water resources, and develop a larger land base to support herd growth.

Visitors from 2010 will be surprised by the new machine and hay storage facility on the farm, as well as the expanded bunk silo. The Bakers have also introduced a new method of calf care. Traditionally, young stock (calves) are housed in individual "hutches" with separate, attached pens. This is a proven method of preventing the exchange of illness and disease between calves, which are, essentially babies – even though they seem pretty big to us. A new approach is to place calves together in a communal area, where they can have free-choice or on-demand feeding, rather than the twice-a-day feeding associated with individual hutches.

The Bakers are finding that by keeping the calves together with on-going access to food, the calves eat 7-8 times per day - less at each feeding, but more overall. As a result, they grow at their own rate, which is faster on average. The Bakers report the calves remain healthy and they benefit from the interaction.

Farm City Day will offer in-depth information on many of Sweyolakan Farm's practices, often from the farm's consultants and agencies and businesses they work with. You'll also be able to meet three generations of the Baker family, all of whom are involved with the farm in some way. Plan to spend the day learning about the farm: from exploring the different barns, milk house and other farm structures to taking a wagon ride through the farm fields. There's a lot to see and do, since the Bakers have a herd of just under 200 cows and work over 1000 acres.

So, why not, take a drive up Bostwick Road between Seven Mile Drive and Sheffield Road in Ithaca On Saturday, August 18th? You'll have the chance to appreciate close-up a view many area residents have enjoyed for years from the other side of the valley. The Baker family, a terrific example of the excellent stewardship farmers provide for the land and animals, invites visitors to come on out and experience the farm first-hand at this year's Farm City Day!



The Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District recently participated in the "Celebrate The Lake" event held on July 17th from 4-7pm at the Farmers Market in Ithaca. This was the first time for this event, and it was very successful with plenty of informational booths, activities, kayaking, paddleboarding, music, food, and beverages. The event was organized and sponsored by the Finger Lakes Land Trust, and many other organizations.



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DISTRICT SERVICES

- Hydro-seeder (fee) • No-till Drill (fee for rental) • Broadcast Seeder (loaned out for free) • Soil Sampling (fee) • Pond Site Evaluations (fee) • Streambank Erosion, Technical Assistance • Drainage Problems, Technical Assistance • Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans • Grazing Plans • Pasture Improvement • Educational Presentations and Resources • Ag-Plastics Baler



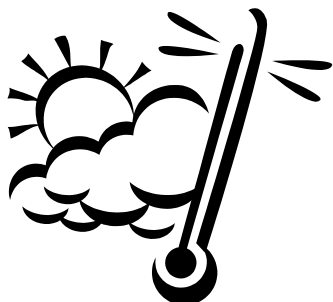
Deicing Technology

Tompkins County SWCD
1771 Hanshaw Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

Soil & Water Conservation Districts
in New York State



Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2012

ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE **SWCD OFFICE**

- BLUEBIRD BOXES \$ 15.12 *
- BAT ROOSTING BOXES 18.36 *
- WOOD DUCK BOXES - PINE 43.20 *
- KESTREL/SCREECH OWL BOXES 29.16 *
- RAIN BARRELS 59.40 *
- FERTILIZER TABLETS15/EACH
- MARKING FLAGS VARIES
- TREE PROTECTORS - AVAILABLE AT TREE ORDER TIME ONLY, CALL FOR PRICE
- RAIN GAUGES 14.04 *
- NYS STANDARDS & SPECIFICATIONS FOR EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL. 70.00
- NY CONTRACTORS EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL FIELD NOTEBOOK
35.00
- SOIL GROUP WORKSHEETS - NEW 35.00
- REVISED 35.00
- TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS 7.00*
- TREE & SHRUB PROGRAM VARIES
- FISH STOCKING PROGRAM VARIES
- BARLEY STRAW (PER BALE) VARIES
- GIFT CARDS ANY AMOUNT!

* 8 % SALES TAX INCLUDED



Save Paper! Save Postage! Would you like to receive our newsletter through your e-mail, instead of in your mailbox? Let us know that you would like to conserve! E-mail sethdennis@tcsxcd.org to sign up or call our office and ask for Seth, 257-2340.

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USDA-NRCS

Patrick Barry District Conservationist
(Schuyler & Tompkins Counties)
Lori Beach Civil Engineer Technician (Area III)
Josh Hornesky Soil Conservationist

***Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd
Monday at 12:30 P.M. in the District office. The
public is always invited.***

Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District
1771 Hanshaw Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone 607-257-2340 Fax 607-257-7896

www.tcsxcd.org

The Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

So Long For Now....NRCS Soil Conservationist Departs Ithaca Office

By: Josh Hornesky

It's with a heavy heart I write this to inform you that June 27th was my last day as an NRCS employee in the Ithaca Field office. As some of you may have known in late May I took on an acting District Conservationist detail to the Mexico field office (Oswego County). I was recently offered a position there as a Resource Conservationist that I have accepted. I came back to Ithaca for two weeks in July to wind down here and I am to report to Mexico on July 30th. Everything happened so quickly and I wish that I could have gotten out and at least said goodbye and thank you to all the farms and people I have worked with but, I'm stuck having to inform you this way of my departure.

This August will have marked six and a half years that I had been a soil conservationist here. It honestly only feels like I started here a few weeks ago. I'm amazed at how fast the time has gone by. I know it went by this quick though because of how fun you farmers and landowners made it for me. As a young adult and stranger to you straight out of college with little farming background you all welcomed me with such joy and hopefulness. You let me onto your farms, into your homes, and into your lives and for that I cannot thank you enough. You all have taught me so much about farming operations, and about myself. No training that I could have ever taken anywhere could come close to teaching me what you farmers have taught me. You always seemed to find time for me regardless of how busy you were or what was going in your lives.

One of the biggest things that I am taking away from my time here is just how hard of workers you farmers are. You are truly some of the hardest working individuals I have ever met.

Seeing first hand day after day how hard you all work helped push me to try and model that type of character and behavior.

I can honestly say it has been the utmost highest privilege, honor, and blessing to be able to work beside you farmers. You are truly the backbone of this great country and heroes in my eyes! I honestly cannot thank you all enough for all that you have done for me and taught me. If there is anything that I can ever do for you please don't hesitate one bit to call (315-963-0779) or email (josh.hornesky@ny.usda.gov) me. I hope to keep in touch with many of you so never hesitate to call or write and say hello!



Benjamin Bonk is the new summer intern at the Ithaca NRCS Field Office as part of a cooperative agreement between the USDA-NRCS in New York and SUNY Cobleskill. Only a select number of field offices will be hosting student interns this summer and the Ithaca office is proud to welcome him. Ben will graduate from Cobleskill in December 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Plant Science with an emphasis within environmental studies. Ben's interest is in soil and water conservation, planning to control soil erosion and improve water quality. During Ben's tenure, he will be calculating erosion from field and map measurements with RUSLE2. He will also help in developing plans using GIS and measuring the location and amount of installed practices in the plans with GPS.



2012 Fall Barley Straw Order Form

The Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District will be accepting barley straw orders now through October 12th. Pick up date will be on **Friday, October 19th, from 8:00am-4:00pm** at 1771 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca, NY. Price is **\$9.72** per bale. Recommended 5 bales per surface acre. Payment is due with the order form, and checks can be made out to TCSWCD, and sent to 1771 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.
- \$40 delivery charge within a 30 mile radius.

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Daytime Phone: _____
Payment method: ☐ check or money order ☐ cash ☐ credit card
Credit Card #: _____
Exp Date: _____ CVC#: _____
Signature: _____

Quantity	Total \$



The Tompkins County SWCD also has rain barrels, bluebird & bat boxes, marking flags, tree protectors, fertilizer tablets, gift cards, and various other conservational items. Please call 257-2340 for more information, or better yet, stop in to our office at 1771 Hanshaw Rd.

TOMPKINS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2012 Fall Pond Stocking Order Form

<u>PERCH</u>	<u>Order By:</u> October 10	<u>Delivery Date:</u> October 20 at 11:30 AM
<u>CRAPPIE</u>	October 10	October 20 at 11:30 AM
<u>FATHEAD MINNOWS</u>	October 10	October 20 at 11:30 AM

Instructions for Fish Pick-Up

- A Pond Stocking License application should be obtained from NYS DEC or Tompkins County SWCD, and must be returned to DEC before placing fish into your pond.
- Deliveries: will take place at Tompkins County SWCD located at 1771 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca. Please be prompt. The hatchery truck will not wait and we cannot hold your fish.
- Containers: use clean milk cans or garbage cans with plastic liners and lids. Each container must be large enough to hold 15 to 20 gallons of water.

Water: BRING WATER FROM YOUR POND. Do not use chlorinated water to transport your fish.

Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District is NOT responsible for the loss of fish during transport by owner, or once the fish are in the pond.

SPECIES	STOCKING RATE	PRICE	QUANTI- TY	COST
Perch 3-5"	300 per acre	\$17.00/10		\$
Crappie 3-5"	200 per acre	\$17.00/10		\$
Fathead Minnows 1-3"		\$16.20/lb		\$
				\$
10 lbs High Protein Food 1/8" Float- ing	Under 7" fish	\$10.80		\$
10 lbs High Protein Food 3/16"	7" and up fish	\$10.80		\$
Pond Colorant – Algae control	1 bag per ¼ acre	\$23.75 4/\$81.00		\$
			TOTAL	\$

Name: _____ **Home Telephone:** _____

Address: _____ **Work Telephone:** _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Send Payment & Order Form To: Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District
1771 Hanshaw Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

Payment must be made at time of order. NO REFUNDS if fish are not picked up on delivery date.

Make checks payable to *Tompkins County SWCD*. There will be a \$25.00 charge for any returned check.
Please call the office (607) 257-2340 for any questions or if you would like to pay by credit card.